

立法會 *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CROP 2/05-06

Ref: CB(3)/CROP/3/4 (Part III)

Paper for the House Committee meeting on 7 October 2005

Committee on Rules of Procedure

Proposed arrangements for the debates on the next and future Policy Addresses

Purpose

The Committee on Rules of Procedure (CRoP) invites the House Committee (HC) to endorse its recommendations on the arrangements for the debate on the next Policy Address to be held from 26 to 28 October 2005, and for future debates.

Background

2. At its meeting on 4 July 2005, CRoP agreed that, provided that Members and the Administration made no suggestion to change the arrangements for the debate on the last Policy Address held from 26 to 28 January 2005, the same arrangements (with modifications of the daily starting and ending times of the debate) should be adopted for the next debate. CRoP also decided to consult all Members and the Administration in this regard.

Result of consultation with Members

3. Only Hon Martin LEE, on behalf of the Democratic Party (DP) Members, suggested that the total speaking time for each Member in the debate should be extended from 25 minutes to 30 minutes.

Result of consultation with the Administration

4. The Director of Administration confirmed that the Administration would not propose any changes to the arrangements for the debate.

CRoP's recommendations

5. CRoP considered DP's proposal at its meeting on 5 September 2005. CRoP noted that under the arrangements for the last debate, the maximum total duration of the debate was about 29 hours. The maximum total duration would be 34 hours under DP Members' proposal. A comparison of the starting and ending times of the forthcoming debate under the existing speaking time limit and that proposed by DP Members for each Member (i.e. 25 minutes or 30 minutes) is tabulated below:

Speaking time limit for each Member	25 minutes	30 minutes
Starting and ending times of the three-day debate on the next Policy Address (Details of the components of the debate and their duration are in the Appendix .)	First day: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm*	
	Second day 9:00 am – 6:30 pm*	Second day 9:00 am – 9:00 pm*
	Third day 9:00 am – 6:35 pm*	Third day 9:00 am – 9:00 pm*

* The President may in her discretion extend the ending time for each day for about 30 minutes where necessary.

CRoP noted that the actual duration of last year's debate was shorter than originally estimated. For the debate on the next Policy Address, even if Members' speaking time was extended to 30 minutes, the debate would be able to conclude within three days.

6. CRoP therefore agrees to recommend to HC that the speaking time limit for each Member should be 30 minutes for the debate on the next Policy Address; the other arrangements should remain unchanged.

7. CRoP also recommends that these arrangements should be adopted for the debates on future Policy Addresses delivered in the remainder of the current term.

Advice sought

8. Members are invited to endorse CRoP's recommendations in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

Legislative Council Secretariat

4 October 2005

Duration of the components of the five-session debate on the next Policy Address to be held from 26 to 28 October 2005

	25-minute speaking time limit for each Member	30-minute speaking time limit for each Member
Speeches by House Committee Chairman in moving the Motion of Thanks, speaking on the amendment(s), if any, and reply	20 minutes	20 minutes
Speeches by 59 Members	24 hours 35 minutes	29 hours 30 minutes
Speeches by 14 public officers (POs) calculated on the basis of 15 minutes for each officer	3 hours 30 minutes	3 hours 30 minutes
Four suspensions before POs speak, which are calculated on the basis of 10 minutes for each suspension	40 minutes	40 minutes
Total duration	29 hours 5 minutes	34 hours
Starting and ending times of the three-day debate		
First day	11:00 am – 9:00 pm* (10 hours)	11:00 am – 9:00 pm* (10 hours)
Second day	9:00 am – 6:30 pm* (9 ½ hours)	9:00 am – 9:00 pm* (12 hours)
Third day	9:00 am – 6:35 pm* (9 hours 35 minutes)	9:00 am – 9:00 pm* (12 hours)

* The President may in her discretion extend the ending time for each day for about 30 minutes where necessary.